



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

**Raised Bill No. 5286**

LCO No. 1022

\*01022\_\_\_\_\_PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE OF MASTER AND CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14, section 19a-18, sections  
4 20-195n to 20-195q, inclusive, as amended by this act, sections 2, 6 and  
5 7 of this act and this section:

6 (1) "Licensed clinical social worker" means a person who has been  
7 licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to this chapter;

8 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

9 (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; [and]

10 (4) "Clinical social work" means the application, by persons trained  
11 in social work, of established principles of psychosocial development,  
12 behavior, psychopathology, unconscious motivation, interpersonal  
13 relationships and environmental stress to the evaluation, assessment,

14 diagnosis and treatment of biopsychosocial dysfunction, disability and  
15 impairment, including mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental  
16 and addictive disorders, of individuals, couples, families or groups.  
17 Clinical social work includes, but is not limited to, counseling,  
18 psychotherapy, behavior modification and mental health consultation;

19 (5) "Licensed master social worker" means a person who has been  
20 licensed as a master social worker pursuant to this chapter;

21 (6) "Independent practice" means the practice of clinical social work  
22 without supervision;

23 (7) "Under professional supervision" means the practice of clinical  
24 social work under the supervision of a physician licensed pursuant to  
25 chapter 370, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant  
26 to chapter 378, a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383, a  
27 marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a, a  
28 clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b, or a  
29 professional counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 383c; and

30 (8) "Professional supervision" means face-to-face consultation  
31 between one supervisor, who is a person described in subdivision (7)  
32 of this section, and one person receiving supervision that consists of  
33 not less than a monthly review, a written evaluation and assessment  
34 by the supervisor of such person's practice of clinical social work.

35 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) An individual licensed as  
36 a master social worker pursuant to section 20-195n of the general  
37 statutes, as amended by this act, may: (1) Practice clinical social work  
38 under professional supervision; and (2) offer a mental health diagnosis  
39 provided such diagnosis is offered in consultation with a physician  
40 licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, an advanced  
41 practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 of the  
42 general statutes, a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the  
43 general statutes, a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to  
44 chapter 383a of the general statutes, a professional counselor licensed

45 pursuant to chapter 383c of the general statutes or a clinical social  
46 worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b of the general statutes.  
47 Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 20-195q of the general  
48 statutes, as amended by this act, a licensed master social worker may  
49 not engage in independent practice.

50 (b) An individual licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to  
51 section 20-195n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, may  
52 practice clinical social work. A licensed clinical social worker may  
53 perform all functions of a licensed master social worker and, in  
54 addition, may engage in independent practice.

55 Sec. 3. Section 20-195n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
56 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

57 (a) No person shall practice clinical social work unless such person  
58 has obtained a license pursuant to this section.

59 (b) An applicant for licensure as a master social worker shall: (1)  
60 Hold a master's degree from a social work program accredited by the  
61 Council on Social Work Education or, if educated outside the United  
62 States or its territories, have completed an educational program  
63 deemed equivalent by the council; and (2) pass the masters level  
64 examination of the Association of Social Work Boards or any other  
65 examination prescribed by the commissioner.

66 (c) [Applicants] An applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker  
67 shall: (1) Hold a doctorate or master's degree from a social work  
68 program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or, if  
69 educated outside the United States or its territories, have completed an  
70 educational program deemed equivalent by [said] the council; (2) have  
71 three thousand hours post-master's social work experience which shall  
72 include not less than one hundred hours of work under professional  
73 supervision by a licensed clinical or certified independent social  
74 worker, provided on and after October 1, 2011, such hours completed  
75 in this state shall be as a licensed master social worker; and (3) pass the

76 clinical level examination of the [American] Association of [State]  
77 Social Work Boards or any other examination prescribed by the  
78 commissioner. On and after October 1, 1995, any person certified as an  
79 independent social worker prior to October 1, 1995, shall be deemed  
80 licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to this section, except a  
81 person certified as an independent social worker on and after October  
82 1, 1990, shall not be deemed licensed as a clinical social worker  
83 pursuant to this chapter unless such person has satisfied the  
84 requirements of subdivision (3) of this [section] subsection.

85 [(b)] (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection [(a)] (b) of  
86 this section, the commissioner may grant a license by endorsement to  
87 an applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner  
88 that the applicant (1) is licensed or certified as a master social worker  
89 or clinical social worker in good standing in another state or  
90 jurisdiction whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are  
91 substantially similar to or higher than those of this state, and (2) has  
92 successfully completed the [clinical] master level examination of the  
93 Association of Social Work Boards, or its successor organization, or  
94 any other examination prescribed by the commissioner. No license  
95 shall be issued under this subsection to any applicant against whom  
96 professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an  
97 unresolved complaint.

98 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
99 the commissioner may grant a license by endorsement to an applicant  
100 who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the  
101 applicant (1) is licensed or certified as a clinical social worker in good  
102 standing in another state or jurisdiction whose requirements for  
103 practicing in such capacity are substantially similar to or higher than  
104 those of this state, and (2) has successfully completed the clinical level  
105 examination of the Association of Social Work Boards, or its successor  
106 organization, or any other examination prescribed by the  
107 commissioner. No license shall be issued under this subsection to any  
108 applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or

109 who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

110 Sec. 4. Section 20-195o of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes  
111 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
112 *October 1, 2010*):

113 (a) Application for licensure shall be on forms prescribed and  
114 furnished by the commissioner. Each applicant shall furnish evidence  
115 satisfactory to the commissioner that he or she has met the  
116 requirements of section 20-195n, as amended by this act. The  
117 application fee for a clinical social worker license shall be three  
118 hundred fifteen dollars. The application fee for a master social worker  
119 license shall be two hundred twenty dollars.

120 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-195n, as amended  
121 by this act, concerning examinations, the commissioner may issue a  
122 license without examination, [prior to January 1, 1998, to any applicant  
123 who offers proof to the satisfaction of the commissioner that he met the  
124 requirements of subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 20-195n and was an  
125 employee of the federal government with not less than three thousand  
126 hours postmaster's social work experience prior to October 1, 1986] to  
127 any master social worker applicant who demonstrates to the  
128 satisfaction of the commissioner that, on or before October 1, 2010, he  
129 or she met the licensing requirements for a master social worker as  
130 prescribed in section 20-195n, as amended by this act.

131 (c) [(1)] Each person licensed pursuant to this chapter may apply for  
132 renewal of such licensure in accordance with the provisions of  
133 subsection (e) of section 19a-88. A fee of one hundred ninety dollars  
134 shall accompany each renewal application for a licensed master social  
135 worker or a licensed clinical social worker. Each such applicant shall  
136 furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having  
137 [participated in] satisfied the continuing education requirements  
138 prescribed in section 7 of this act. [The commissioner shall adopt  
139 regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to (A) define basic  
140 requirements for continuing education programs, (B) delineate

141 qualifying programs, (C) establish a system of control and reporting,  
142 and (D) provide for waiver of the continuing education requirement  
143 for good cause.]

144 [(2) A person licensed pursuant to this chapter who holds a  
145 professional educator certificate that is endorsed for school social work  
146 and issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to sections 10-  
147 144o to 10-149, inclusive, may satisfy the continuing education  
148 requirements contained in regulations adopted pursuant to this section  
149 by successfully completing professional development activities  
150 pursuant to subsection (i) of section 10-145b, provided the number of  
151 continuing education hours completed by such person is equal to the  
152 number of hours per registration period required by such regulations.  
153 For purposes of this subdivision, "registration period" means the one-  
154 year period during which a license has been renewed in accordance  
155 with section 19a-88 and is current and valid.]

156 Sec. 5. Section 20-195q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
157 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

158 (a) No person shall (1) use the title "licensed master social worker"  
159 or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under  
160 the description of a licensed master social worker, as defined in section  
161 20-195m, as amended by this act, unless such person is licensed as a  
162 master social worker pursuant to this chapter.

163 [(a)] (b) No [persons, except those licensed pursuant to this chapter,]  
164 person shall (1) use the title "licensed clinical social worker" or any  
165 initials associated with such [titles] title, or (2) advertise services under  
166 the description of a licensed clinical social worker, as defined in section  
167 20-195m, as amended by this act, unless such person is licensed as a  
168 clinical social worker pursuant to this chapter.

169 [(b)] (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit: (1) A student enrolled  
170 in a doctoral or master's degree program accredited by the Council on  
171 Social Work Education from performing such work as is incidental to

172 his course of study, provided such person is designated by a title  
173 which clearly indicates his status as a student; (2) a person holding a  
174 doctoral or master's degree from a program accredited by the Council  
175 on Social Work Education from gaining social work experience under  
176 professional supervision, provided such activities are necessary to  
177 satisfy the work experience required by section 20-195n, as amended  
178 by this act, and such person is designated as "social work intern",  
179 "social work trainee" or other title clearly indicating the status  
180 appropriate to his level of training; (3) a person licensed or certified in  
181 this state in a field other than clinical social work from practicing  
182 within the scope of such license or certification; (4) a person enrolled in  
183 an educational program or fulfilling other state requirements leading  
184 to licensure or certification in a field other than social work from  
185 engaging in work in such other field; [or] (5) a person who is employed  
186 or retained as a social work designee, social worker, or social work  
187 consultant by a nursing home or rest home licensed under section 19a-  
188 490 and who meets the qualifications prescribed by the department in  
189 its regulations from performing the duties required of them in  
190 accordance with state and federal laws governing those duties; (6) for  
191 the period from October 1, 2010, to October 1, 2013, inclusive, a master  
192 social worker from engaging in independent practice, provided after  
193 October 1, 2013, a master social worker may not engage in  
194 independent practice unless such master social worker has obtained  
195 licensure as a clinical social worker; (7) a social worker from practicing  
196 community organization, policy and planning, research or  
197 administration that does not include engaging in clinical social work or  
198 supervising a social worker engaged in clinical treatment with clients;  
199 and (8) individuals with a baccalaureate degree in social work from a  
200 Council on Social Work Education accredited program from  
201 performing nonclinical social work functions.

202 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) The department may issue a  
203 temporary permit to an applicant for licensure as a master social  
204 worker who holds a master's degree from a social work educational  
205 program, as described in section 20-195n of the general statutes, as

206 amended by this act, but who has not yet taken the licensure  
207 examination prescribed in said section 20-195n. Such temporary permit  
208 shall authorize the holder to practice as a master social worker as  
209 provided for in section 2 of this act. Such temporary permit shall be  
210 valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days  
211 after the date of attaining such master's degree and shall not be  
212 renewable. Such permit shall become void and shall not be reissued in  
213 the event that the applicant fails to pass such examination. The fee for  
214 a temporary permit shall be fifty dollars.

215       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) Except as otherwise  
216 provided in this section, each clinical social worker, licensed pursuant  
217 to the provisions of chapter 383b of the general statutes, and, on and  
218 after October 1, 2011, each master social worker licensed pursuant to  
219 said chapter 383b shall complete a minimum of fifteen hours of  
220 continuing education during each registration period. For purposes of  
221 this section, "registration period" means the twelve-month period for  
222 which a license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 of  
223 the general statutes and is current and valid.

224       (b) Continuing education required pursuant to this section shall be  
225 related to the practice of social work. Such continuing education shall  
226 consist of courses, workshops and conferences offered or approved by  
227 the Association of Social Work Boards, the National Association of  
228 Social Workers or a school or department of social work accredited by  
229 the Council on Social Work Education. A licensee's ability to engage in  
230 on-line and home study continuing education shall be limited to not  
231 more than six hours per registration period. Within the registration  
232 period, an initial presentation by a licensee of an original paper, essay  
233 or formal lecture in social work to a recognized group of fellow  
234 professionals may account for five hours of continuing education  
235 hours of the aggregate continuing education requirements prescribed  
236 in this section.

237       (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from a

238 provider of the continuing education for all continuing education  
239 hours that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate  
240 for a minimum of three years following the license renewal date for  
241 which the activity satisfies the continuing education requirement.  
242 Upon request by the department, the licensee shall submit such  
243 certificate to the department. A licensee who fails to comply with the  
244 continuing education requirements prescribed in this section may be  
245 subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-195p of the general  
246 statutes.

247 (d) A person licensed pursuant to chapter 383b of the general  
248 statutes who holds a professional educator certificate that is endorsed  
249 for school social work and issued by the State Board of Education  
250 pursuant to sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, of the general statutes  
251 may satisfy the continuing education requirements contained in this  
252 section by successfully completing professional development activities  
253 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (l) of section 10-145b of the  
254 general statutes, provided the number of continuing education hours  
255 completed by such person is equal to the number of hours per  
256 registration period required by this section.

257 (e) A licensee applying for the first time for license renewal  
258 pursuant to section 20-195o of the general statutes, as amended by this  
259 act, shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements of  
260 this section. The department may, for a licensee who has a medical  
261 disability or illness, grant a waiver of the continuing education  
262 requirements or may grant such licensee an extension of time in which  
263 to fulfill the requirements, provided the licensee submits to the  
264 department an application for waiver or extension of time on a form  
265 prescribed by the department along with any documentation required  
266 by the department. The department may grant a waiver or extension  
267 not to exceed one registration period, except that the department may  
268 grant additional waivers or extensions if the initial reason for the  
269 waiver or extension continues beyond the period of the waiver or  
270 extension. A waiver of the continuing education requirement may be

271 granted by the department to a licensee who is not engaged in social  
272 work during a given continuing education registration period,  
273 provided the licensee submits a waiver request prior to the expiration  
274 of the continuing education period, on a form prescribed by the  
275 department.

276 (f) Any licensee granted a waiver of the continuing education  
277 requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of this  
278 section shall be required to complete seven hours of continuing  
279 education not later than six months from the date on which such  
280 licensee returned to active practice. In addition, such licensee shall  
281 comply with the certificate of completion requirements prescribed in  
282 subsection (c) of this section.

283 (g) Any licensee whose license has become void pursuant to the  
284 provisions of subsection (f) of section 19a-88 of the general statutes,  
285 who applies to the department for reinstatement of such license, shall  
286 submit with such application evidence documenting that such  
287 applicant has successfully completed seven hours of continuing  
288 education within the one-year period immediately preceding the date  
289 of application for reinstatement.

290 Sec. 8. Subsection (c) of section 19a-14 of the 2010 supplement to the  
291 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
292 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

293 (c) No board shall exist for the following professions that are  
294 licensed or otherwise regulated by the Department of Public Health:

295 (1) Speech and language pathologist and audiologist;

296 (2) Hearing instrument specialist;

297 (3) Nursing home administrator;

298 (4) Sanitarian;

- 299 (5) Subsurface sewage system installer or cleaner;
- 300 (6) Marital and family therapist;
- 301 (7) Nurse-midwife;
- 302 (8) Licensed clinical social worker;
- 303 (9) Respiratory care practitioner;
- 304 (10) Asbestos contractor and asbestos consultant;
- 305 (11) Massage therapist;
- 306 (12) Registered nurse's aide;
- 307 (13) Radiographer;
- 308 (14) Dental hygienist;
- 309 (15) Dietitian-Nutritionist;
- 310 (16) Asbestos abatement worker;
- 311 (17) Asbestos abatement site supervisor;
- 312 (18) Licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;
- 313 (19) Professional counselor;
- 314 (20) Acupuncturist;
- 315 (21) Occupational therapist and occupational therapist assistant;
- 316 (22) Lead abatement contractor, lead consultant contractor, lead  
317 consultant, lead abatement supervisor, lead abatement worker,  
318 inspector and planner-project designer;
- 319 (23) Emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical  
320 technician, emergency medical responder and emergency medical

321 services instructor;

322 (24) Paramedic;

323 (25) Athletic trainer;

324 (26) Perfusionist; [and]

325 (27) Master social worker subject to the provisions of section 9 of  
 326 this act; and

327 ~~[(27)]~~ (28) On and after July 1, 2011, a radiologist assistant, subject to  
 328 the provisions of section 20-74tt.

329 The department shall assume all powers and duties normally vested  
 330 with a board in administering regulatory jurisdiction over such  
 331 professions. The uniform provisions of this chapter and chapters 368v,  
 332 369 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 388, inclusive, 393a, 395, 398, 399, 400a  
 333 and 400c, including, but not limited to, standards for entry and  
 334 renewal; grounds for professional discipline; receiving and processing  
 335 complaints; and disciplinary sanctions, shall apply, except as otherwise  
 336 provided by law, to the professions listed in this subsection.

337 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) The Department of Public  
 338 Health shall only be required to implement the provisions of chapter  
 339 383b of the general statutes as relate to the licensure of master social  
 340 workers, if appropriations are available.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	20-195m
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	20-195n
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	20-195o
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	20-195q
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section

Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	19a-14(c)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish Department of Public Health licensure for master social workers.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*